

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Texas Veterans: Emergency Financial Assistance Programs Available

Veterans who currently honorably serve and have in the past served in the military, including thousands in Texas, are an important part of the fabric that makes up our nation's overall tapestry in all the daily aspects of society including education, jobs, housing, and civic participation. For that reason, the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) was created in 1927 as the State Service Office to assist veterans of the Indian wars, Spanish-American War and World War I. The TVC's purpose has always been to act as the state appointed advocate of Texas veterans as they attempt to secure the benefits rightfully earned in exchange for their service in our nation's armed forces.

The TVC is able to do this through our four program areas, including the following:

- **Claims Representation and Counseling** serves veterans, their dependents and survivors, in all matters pertaining to veterans' disability benefits and rights. It is the designated agency of the state of Texas to represent the State and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- **Veterans Employment Services** offers employment services to Texas veterans and helps employers find qualified veteran job applicants. The goal of these services is to match veteran job seekers with the best employment opportunities available.
- **Veterans Education Program** approves all programs for Chapter 30, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607 federal educational benefits. Through an approval process, the Texas Veterans Commission ensures that institutions and employers are in compliance with federal guidelines and are qualified to provide the type of training offered.
- **Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance** is a program that makes grants available to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies, and Veterans Service Organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their families.

"As a state policymaker and giant advocate of all branches of our military, it is indeed an honor for me to recognize the nation's 23.4 million living veterans and the generations before them who fight and have fought on a daily basis to protect our freedom and democracy. The TVC provides many opportunities we can offer them for the many hard sacrifices, dedication, commitment, and service they provide our country and I encourage all veterans to take advantage of their services," said Rep. Alonzo.

In this **Capitol Report**, I would like to focus specifically on the fourth program above, relating to the **"Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance,"** and what veterans can do to take advantage of the various services.

As the TVC staff has informed my offices, the VC Fund for Veterans Assistance (**FVA hereafter**) awards reimbursement grants to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies, and Veterans Service Organizations that provide direct services to Texas Veterans and their families. The FVA does not grant funds directly to Veterans. However, the Texas VFW Foundation is one of the grant recipients from their Fund for Veterans Assistance. The best way for constituents to get a copy of their grant application is from the Texas VFW Foundation's website and link to the application, both listed below, along with contact information:

Texas VFW Foundation

8503 North IH-35

Austin, Texas 78753

PH: (512) 834-8535

Website: www.texasvfw.org

Link: http://www.texasvfw.org/files/351-veterans_assistance_application_04262012.pdf

For more details on TVC, visit their website at www.TVC.state.tx.us